

## Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 311600Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2347

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SOCI, GR

SUBJECT: IERONYMOS ON TORTURE AND UNDER ATTACK

1. RELIABLE CHURCH CIRCLES HAVE CONFIRMED EXISTENCE AND GENERAL CONTENTS OF TWO LETTERS WRITTEN BY THEN PRIMATE IERONYMOS TO PAPADOPOULOS IN AUGUST 1969 AND MARCH 1970, WARNING IN THE FIRST THAT THE APRIL 21 REVOLUTION WAS IN DANGER OF BECOMING A TYRANNY AND ADMITTING IN SECOND THAT TORTURE HAD BECOME AN ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICE OF GOG. TEXT OF LETTERS SO FAR NOT AVAILABLE AND THEIR EXISTENCE ONLY CITED PUBLICLY BY TONGE IN GUARDIAN ARTICLE OF JANUARY 26. IERONYMOS HIMSELF, MOREOVER, IN LONG APOLOGIA DATED DECEMBER 12, 1973, TO HOLY SYNOD, WHICH WAS NEVER RELEASED BY ORIGINAL OF WHICH PAO SAW, SPOKE OF HIS SOMETIMES BITTER INTERVENTIONS WITH GOG TO PROTECT ARRESTEES AND REFERRED TO EXISTENCE TWO PROTEST LETTERS TO PAPADOPOULOS. HE DID NOT REFER TO TORTURE ISSUE PER SE AND ONLY TONOLHAS CITED DETAILS OF PARA 1, ON BASIS WE BELIEVE OF FULLER DISCLOSURE OF CONTENTS LETTERS.

2. COMMENT: NEW PRIMATE SERAPHIM PROMISED ERA OF RECONCILIATION IN CHURCH AND HE MAY NOT BE PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO ANTI-IERONYMOS CAMPAIGN BUT THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT POWERFUL COALITION OF BISHOPS AND PROFESSORS, CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDING NEW MINISTER EDUCATION AND RELIGION CHRISTOU,

IS BENT ON FURTHER DENUNCIATIONS AND LEGAL SANCTION AGAINST RETIRED ARCHBISHOP. GOG TOLERATION OF THIS CAMPAIGN IS PERPLEXING AND POSSIBLY SHORTSIGHTED. THERE MAY BE SHORT-TERM GAINS IN THAT IERONYMOS IS NOT POPULAR THROUGH COUNTRY, AND HIS VERY BELATED ATTEMPTS TO REHABILITATE HIS MORAL STATURE BY RELEASING LETTERS OF MORAL PROTEST TO PAPADOPOULOS WILL PROBABLY NOT BOOST HIS PUBLIC STANDING. NONETHELESS, FORMAL SANCTIONS AGAINST HIM COULD LEAD TO MORE DIVISION IN CHRUCH AND IN GOVERNMENT.

3. IN RECENT WEEKS GOG HAS INDICATED INTENT TO PROSECUTE CERTAIN HIGH OFFICIALS ASSOCIATED WITH PAPADOPOULOS YEARS WHO ALLEGEDLY PROFITEERED AND WHO WERE MORALY HYPOCRITICAL TOWARD REGIME DOGMA. IERONYMOS DOES NOT FIT INTO THIS CATEGORY. HE IS VULNERABLE ONLY BECAUSE OF CANONICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH HIS RULE. AN ONGOING CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM WOULD MAKE IT SEEM THAT GOG IS NOW WILLING TO RISK, OR TO UNDERTAKE CONSCIOUSLY, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE REPUTATION OF PAPADOPOULOS ERA OF WHICH IERONYMOS WAS A HIGHLY VISIBLE CEREMONIAL SYMBOL. FURTHERMORE, GIVEN IERONYMOS' PRIDE, INTELLECTUAL VIGOR, ANE EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY, HE MAY BE PREPARED TO RELEASE BELATEDLY OTHER LETTERS, TALES, AND REVELATIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFEND HIS HONOR AND HIS PLACE IN MODERN GREEK HISTORY.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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